



FAIR OAK JUNIOR SCHOOL

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Interim Headteacher: Mr Jim Hartley

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Laura Cooper

Friday 6th February 2026

READ ALOUD COMPETITION 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

I can't believe it is that time of year where we start looking forward to some reading competition. After half-term, we see the return of the annual **Fair Oak Junior School Read Aloud Competition**. The children will take part in a challenge to read a passage aloud, initially to their class, using all their skills of oracy, which have been a focus across the school this year. The competition, now in its fourth year, will be competed within the Upper School and Lower School. Whilst there will ultimately be an upper and lower school winner, this is a challenge for all children to enjoy and take part in and certificates for winners at each stage.

During assemblies over the next two weeks, children will be introduced to the competition and asked to select a passage of text from a fiction book of their choice – this needs to be a published book and not an AI generated text.

Parents and Carers

Please support your child in firstly selecting their text and ensuring it follows the rules above. And then spend time practising this with them at home, so that they are confident with what they will be reading and ready to share their text with their classes. Remember, this can be recorded as their reading in the children's reading records.

The Challenge Stages

Class finals (during the week beginning 2nd March): Children will perform to their classes with two children being invited to represent the class in the semi-finals (1 minute of reading)

Semi-Finals (during the week beginning 9th March): In the year group assembly, the two winners from each class will read aloud again with two children from each year team being invited to represent the team at the Grand Final (2 minutes of reading).

The Grand Final: On Friday 20th March, the 4 year group winners will go head to head in our grand final to become the [Fair Oak Junior School Read Aloud Champions](#) for 2025 (3 minutes of reading). All finalists will receive a trophy to keep and the winners of the grand final will have their name engraved on the school read aloud cup.

What we are looking for

- ~ A clear voice so that we can hear every word.
- ~ A well-chosen book/passage.
- ~ Expressive speaking – some creativity is needed to bring a non-fiction text to life!
- ~ Well paced reading – not rushed or too hesitant.



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~ Someone who will leave us on the edge of our seats, or make us laugh, or smile, or cry, or all of those things in the span of a minute!

What if my child finds reading challenging?

For some of our children, reading is a skill that they are still acquiring. We would like as many children as possible to read aloud in front of their class (who will be a kind and supportive audience) as they do during most weeks in school. However, we do have some children in school who may find this too challenging. Teachers will check whether they have any children who do not feel comfortable doing this; if this is the case, they will be able to read their poem aloud to their adult and a pupil of their choice during a reading for pleasure session. For those children who take part in read write inc sessions each morning or are in the Hive and they don't feel confident to enter the main competition itself, they will be able to read aloud in front of their Read Write inc group or their Hive group.

Next Steps: The children need to choose their text and start practising for Round 1: the class auditions. They can practise in front of the mirror, to their brothers/sisters/cousins, to their pets, their teddies or to yourselves.

This challenge is intended to be great fun but also promote the vital skill of being able to read aloud expressively and to an audience.

Many thanks

Mr I Jacobs

(Teaching and Learning coach).